

Remarks

After entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 20-26 have been cancelled as part of this response.

In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-19 are allowed. Claims 20-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claims 20-26 have been cancelled as part of this response and thus the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is now moot. It should be appreciated claims 20-26 have been cancelled merely to expedite the prosecution of the allowed claims and the cancellation of claims 20-26 is not tantamount to an admission that these claims lack novelty.

In addition, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted herewith. The references cited in this Supplemental Disclosure Statement have already been considered by the Examiner in the present Application because these references were considered in the parent Application of the present Application, specifically U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/955,763 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,605,103. The Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted such that these already considered references are printed on the face of the patent issuing from the present Application pursuant to MPEP §609.02. Specifically, the present Application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/955,763 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,605,103; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/504,131 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,475,228; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/280,312 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,051,016. Each of the references cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement were cited in at least one of the above-referenced parent applications. As such, each of the references cited in the Supplemental Disclosure Statement were considered by the Examiner in the most recently filed parent U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/955,763 and therefore were considered by the Examiner in the present Application. As such, the Applicants request entry of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 14, and the claims that depend therefrom, are both novel and non-obvious such that these claims are in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested. A petition and fee for a two-month extension of time is submitted herewith. Since May 31, 2008 was a Saturday and June 1, 2008 was a Sunday, this Amendment is considered timely filed with a two-month extension of time pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §21(b). The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C. for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment for this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

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